## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A method for the detection of a fungal pathogen, comprising the steps of:

(a) isolating DNA from a plant leaf infected with a pathogen;

(b) subjecting said DNA to polymerase chain reaction amplification using a pair of primers wherein each primer has sequence identity with at least 10 contiguous nucleotides of a mitochondrial small subunit rDNA gene from from *Fusarium subglutinans* ~~a *Fusarium* spp.~~ and wherein at least one primer comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NOS:13, 15 or 16; and

(c) detecting said fungal pathogen by visualizing the product or products of said polymerase chain reaction amplification.

8-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the primers comprise:

[[a)]] SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16[[;]]

~~b) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18;~~

~~c) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:19; or~~

~~d) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:20~~.

14-16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit used in detecting *Fusarium subglutinans* ~~a fungal pathogen~~ comprising at least one primer having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 13, 15 or 16~~13-20, 23 or 24~~.

18. (currently amended) A diagnostic kit used in detecting *Fusarium proliferatum* ~~a fungal pathogen~~ comprising a pair of primers of:

[[a)]] SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16[[;]]

~~b) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:18;~~

~~c) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:19; and~~

~~d) SEQ ID NO:14 and SEQ ID NO:20~~.